

LOCAL ELECTIONS HAVE NOW BEEN HELD IN OVER 90 PERCENT OF CHINA'S VILLAGES, GIVING MORE THAN 800 MILLION RURAL CHINESE ACCESS TO A MORE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS.

# Addressing Human Rights

## OUR WTO AGREEMENT AND ENACTMENT OF PERMANENT NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS (PNTR) STATUS FOR CHINA WILL HELP MOVE CHINA IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION TOWARD ATTAINMENT OF OUR HUMAN RIGHTS OBJECTIVES.

Actively promoting the entire range of U.S. interests, exposing China to international standards, and communicating American ideas and values will advance the process of positive change in China.

## THE U.S. REMAINS DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN CHINA.

Despite the clear expansion of personal freedom for huge numbers of Chinese citizens associated with economic reform over the past several decades, violations continue.

- China continues to curtail basic freedoms.
- China maintains a one-party state that tolerates no organized opposition.
- Authorities engage in the extrajudicial arrest and detention of political and religious activists and restrict religious and spiritual practices.
- The U.S. is concerned by reports of exploitation of prison labor, human organ trafficking, and coercive family planning practices.

## EXPOSURE TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD HAS BROUGHT TO THE CHINESE PEOPLE OPENNESS, SOCIAL MOBILITY, AND PERSONAL LIBERTIES.

- Despite repression of religious groups not sanctioned by the government, membership in churches continues to grow.
- The Chinese government and foreign observers estimate that over 90 percent of China's villages have held elections for local leaders. In recent years, exposure to international norms and legal systems has played a role in China's legal reform effort that is broadening citizens' rights.
- China has signed the UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the UN Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, although both await ratification by the National People's Congress.
- Chinese officials have hosted visits by U.S. religious leaders and the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.
- Prominent dissidents Wei Jingsheng and Wang Dan were released abroad on medical grounds.
- China has expanded rule of law cooperation with the U.S. and other nations.

## ENGAGEMENT DOES NOT MEAN ENDORSEMENT.

The Administration's support for PNTR is coupled with active efforts to promote respect for human rights and the rule of law, including respect for the unique religious, linguistic, and cultural traditions of Tibetans.

- The Administration has consistently pressed its human rights concerns with China, including through President Clinton's direct statements to the Chinese people in June 1998.
- The U.S. sponsored a resolution at the 1999 session of the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva critical of China's human rights situation and is sponsoring a resolution this year.
- Secretary of State Albright went to Geneva in March 2000 to personally make the case for this year's resolution.
- The U.S. maintains Tiananmen-era sanctions against China.
- The U.S. enforces U.S. laws banning imports produced by prison labor.
- The U.S. does not contribute funds, directly or indirectly, to China's family planning efforts.
- The United States strongly supports broadcasts of Radio Free Asia in China and the Asia Pacific region to promote the free flow of information and foster more open and prosperous societies.
- The President appointed an Ambassador At Large for International Religious Freedom who visited China in January 1999 to emphasize to Chinese authorities the priority we place on religious freedom.
- The United States has designated and sanctioned China as a "country of particular concern" for violations of religious freedom under the International Religious Freedom Act.
- The President has spoken out about China's repression of Falun Gong members peacefully pursuing spiritual interests.

The Secretary of State has appointed a Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues to promote dialogue between the Dalai Lama and China.




---

**BAO TONG, FORMER  
POLITBURO SECRETARY  
AND DEMOCRACY ACTIVIST:**

*"Entry into WTO will definitely promote China's economic reforms...and over the long term will help develop the legal system and moves toward democracy."*

Christian Science Monitor, March 8, 2000

---



---

**NELSON E. GRAHAM,  
PRESIDENT, EAST GATES  
INTERNATIONAL:**

*"Granting PNTR to China and China's accession into the WTO...will have a positive impact on China's religious policies and stimulate China's overall growth and development."*

Testimony Before the Senate Finance Committee,  
March 23, 2000

---



---

**MERLE GOLDMAN,  
PROFESSOR OF CHINESE  
HISTORY AT BOSTON  
UNIVERSITY:**

*"I agree with Wang Dan and Wang Juntao that China should become a member of WTO...isolating China by rejecting permanent NTR will only make the human rights situation worse. The more China is involved in the international community, the more it will abide by global norms and rules."*

Christian Science Monitor, March 8, 2000

---